



## NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Virginia War Memorial to Honor Military & Service Dogs**  
**At 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual K-9 Veterans Day Event**  
*Public Invited to See Military, Police and Rescue Dogs in Action*

**(Richmond, Va.)** Virginia will commemorate K-9 Veterans Day on Saturday, March 14 from 10 a.m.-12 noon at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond.

Co-hosted with Hanover Hounds Search & Rescue, this annual family-friendly event honors the contributions of the heroic dogs who have served side-by-side with their human companions on the battlefield in time of war and also here at home assisting police and law enforcement, performing search and rescue missions, and providing companionship to our wounded warriors.

Virginia Delegate Hyland “Buddy” Fowler of Hanover County and the John Marshall High School Alumni Band will be part of a special patriotic opening ceremony for K-9 Veterans Day to be held at 10 a.m. on the Memorial’s Grand Plaza fronting the Shrine of Memory. Following the ceremony, four area K-9 units will perform demonstrations of the specific duties their dogs perform each day on the Memorial’s Grand Terrace. These units include:

- Fort Lee K-9 Military Working Dogs (patrol bite demo)
- City of Richmond Police Department K-9s (drug search demo)
- Virginia Capitol Police (explosive search demo)
- Hanover Hounds Search and Rescue Team (missing person and trailing demo)

In 2013, the Virginia General Assembly joined the legislatures of 13 other states in passing a resolution to annually designate March 13 as K-9 Veterans Day. This date was chosen as on this day in 1942 U.S. Secretary of War Robert Patterson authorized the U.S. Army Quartermaster General to include dogs in the military effort to win World War II. That same year, the first War Dog Reception and Training Center was established in Warren County, Virginia near Front Royal.

(more)

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual K-9 Veterans Day at Virginia War Memorial, Page 2**

“All of us at the Virginia War Memorial are proud to again join with the Hanover Hounds Search & Rescue Team for the Commonwealth’s official commemoration of K-9 Veterans Day,” said Jon Hatfield, the Memorial’s Executive Director. “This is a fitting venue to honor the service and sacrifice of our military, police and rescue dogs whether they serve on the battlefield or back here at home.”

Hatfield noted, “While the official date of K-9 Veterans Day is March 13, the Memorial will hold this event on Saturday, March 14 so that families and their children can come and enjoy seeing the dog units in action.”

There is no admission charge to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual K-9 Veterans Day. Please note that no personal pets are allowed at this event because of safety reasons.

Parking is also free at the Virginia War Memorial which is located at 621 South Belvidere Street in Richmond. For more information, visit [www.vawarmemorial.org](http://www.vawarmemorial.org) or call 804.786.2060.

### **About the Virginia War Memorial**

The Virginia War Memorial’s mission is to *Honor Veterans, Preserve History, Educate Youth and Instill Patriotism in All*. Dedicated in 1956, the Memorial includes the names of the nearly 12,000 Virginia heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf and the Global War on Terror.

Situated on over four acres overlooking downtown Richmond and the James River at 621 South Belvidere St., the Virginia War Memorial also includes the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center which houses military-related exhibits, programs and theaters showing the award-winning *Virginians At War* video series and the multi-dimensional film, *Into Battle*.

The Galanti Education Center is open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Sunday, 12 noon- 4 p.m. The Shrine of Memory and grounds are open from 5 a.m. – 12 midnight daily. All events at the Virginia War Memorial are free unless otherwise noted. For more information, call 804-786-2060 or visit [www.vawarmemorial.org](http://www.vawarmemorial.org) or [www.facebook.com/virginiawarmemorial](https://www.facebook.com/virginiawarmemorial).

### **About the Virginia War Memorial Educational Foundation**

The Virginia War Memorial Educational Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to the support of the educational and patriotic programs of the Memorial. Donations to the Foundation from individuals, corporations, veterans groups and other organizations may be tax-deductible and are encouraged and appreciated. For more information, please visit [www.vawarmemorial.org](http://www.vawarmemorial.org) and click on *Get Involved*.

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(Editors: Background on History of K-9 Veterans Day is attached.)

